

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested. Claims 1-3, 10-12, 16-22, 24, 29, 37-40, 45-57, 59 and 66 have been canceled. Claims 23, 28, 58, 60, 65 and 67 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

In the Office Action, claims 4-9, 13-15, 33-36, 41-44 and 62-64 were allowed; claims 17-19, 24, 25, 29, 30, 59-61 and 66-68 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but were deemed to be allowable if rewritten in independent form; and claims 1-3, 10-12, 16, 20-23, 26-28, 31, 32, 37-40, 45-58 and 65 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and/or § 103 based on cited art.

Each of the rejected independent claims has been either canceled or amended to incorporate the limitations of a dependent claim that was only objected to (i.e., which recited allowable subject matter). Therefore, all of the claims are believed to be allowable.

For the foregoing reasons, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is earnestly requested.

If any additional fee is required, please charge Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,
BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Date: 9/15/04


Daniel M. DeVos
Reg. No. 37,813

12400 Wilshire Boulevard
Seventh Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90025-1030
(408) 720-8300